



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 7, 2008

Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present

Sharon McKinley (Chairperson), Kati Bates, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Paul Herrmann, Marilyn Johnson, John Linda (AHCA), Doyle Meredith, Bernadette Polley, Victoria Collins, Lynn Larson

Council Staff Present

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff, Elsa Gaynor

Guests Present

Dr. Janet Woldt (A.T. Still University)

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Sharon McKinley called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. *Minutes from the January 10, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved through a motion made by Marilyn Johnson and seconded by Bill Engler. The motion passed unanimously.*

Updates

Budget

Executive Director Melanie Starns provided the committee with an overview of the projected 2008 budget shortfall, and an explanation of the budget cuts to existing funding proposed by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC). Additionally, Ms. Starns discussed the Governor's budget and emphasized Governor Napolitano's commitment to balancing funding through working with her Cabinet Directors to streamline state agency expenses, while keeping essential services to vulnerable populations in tact. Ms. Starns noted that the process will be long, and that it is essential to examine the interconnectedness of the budget in relation to all state services through a "logical thought out approach."

Bills and Action on Key Items

Ms. Starns and Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa discussed several of the House and Senate Bills being tracked by the Council through the Legislation Online Arizona (LOLA) service, and a subsequent discussion of these bills ensued. Ms. De Lisa also provided the Committee with an overview of a recently posted bill (SB 1436) by State Senator Carolyn Allen, related to allowable services provided by dental hygienists and dental assistants. Copies of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's "New Report" from the Arizona Capitol Times dated

February 5, 2008, and SB 1436, which proposes amendments to A.R.S. §32-1289 and 32-1291 are available through the Council Office.

Presentation

Dr. Janet Woldt, Associate Dean of Academic Assessment at A.T. Still University of Health Sciences, School of Dentistry & Oral Health provided an overview of her institution's demographic make-up, graduate level degree programs, corresponding curriculum, and ideological perspective. Specifically, Dr. Woldt discussed the difference between osteopathic and allopathic degree programs (the former being a more holistic approach to medicine, while the latter is a more traditional physical approach to medicine), emphasizing a compassionate and holistic approach which defines the institution's commitment to treating the mind, body and spirit. The University is a private, non-profit institution which offers a degree program in Doctor of Medical Dentistry (DMD), and the school utilizes instructors from across the country who teach in non-traditional, "modular" classroom settings. Furthermore, students must receive certification in Public Health (which may be applied towards a Master's degree in Public Health at a later time), as the focus of the institution leans less towards research, and more towards the fields of Public Health and Public Policy through 14 related areas of core competencies. Dr. Woldt also noted that the institution has one mobile unit which provides dental assistance based on individual need. Mr. John Linda (AHCA) suggested that the institution might model their mobile unit on that of those used within the "Reach out America" program, a national model which currently delivers services in Arizona to facilities in Pima County. A question and answer period followed Dr. Woldt's presentation and the Committee expressed its desire for the University to work more with improving services to seniors. Dr. Woldt stated to the Committee that her institution is willing to "brainstorm" and work in collaboration with the Council in order to focus training aimed at implementing a state-wide strategy for providing dental assistance and outreach throughout the state. A copy of Dr. Woldt's handout is available through the Council Office.

Transportation Discussion

Given the limited time available after Dr. Woldt's presentation, Committee Chair Sharon McKinley noted that she will work with Ms. Starns and Ms. De Lisa to identify a knowledgeable speaker of the caliber of Dr. Woldt to discuss the transportation/transit issues at the next meeting. The Committee unanimously agreed, and the agenda moved forward accordingly.

Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements

Mr. John Linda briefly discussed and handed out a brochure about the Arizona Health Care Association's 2008 Leadership Conference at the Prescott Conference Resort on March 31 – April 1, 2008. A copy of the event's handout is available through the Council Office.

Action Items

- The Committee will identify a knowledgeable speaker to present on transportation/transit issues at the March 6, 2008 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Sharon McKinley at 11:24 a.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee meeting will be March 6, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.